

Message Text

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FOR SCI

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SENV

SUBJECT: GEOTHERMAL ENERGY: EXPLORATION IN FRANCE

REF: A. A-332 OF MAY 4, 1974; B. A-596 OF AUG. 27,1973

1. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, AT A RECENT MEETING OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS IN FRANCE, THE ITALIAN VOLCANOLOGIST, G. MARINELLI, DEPLORED FRENCH FAILURE TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATION OF GEOTHERMAL SOURCES OF ENERGY. IN THE LAST YEAR, THERE WAS NOT ONE GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION EFFORT MADE IN FRANCE. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH THE MORE THAN 3,000 PETROLEUM ATTEMPTS IN FRANCE OVER THE SAME PERIOD, AND THE 2,460 GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATIONS SCHEDULED TO BE MADE IN THE U.S. IN 1975. HE PROPOSED THAT FRENCH EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THE MASSIF CENTRAL WHERE IMPORTANT GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE FOUND SINCE IT IS A REGION OF COMPARATIVELY RECENT VOLCANIC ACTIVITY. HE ESTIMATED THAT 200 BILLION KILOWATTS OF THERMAL ENERGY COULD BE REALIZED FROM A

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SERIES OF 3,000 - METER DEEP WELLS SUNK OVER AN AREA

OF 100 KM2 IN THE MASSIF CENTRAL REGION.

2. WHILE DISAGREEING WITH PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT MARINELLI "DEPLORED" AND "WAS ASTONISHED" AT FRANCE'S LACK OF INTEREST IN GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION, M. STIELJES, A BRGM (FRENCH BUREAU OF MINES) REPRESENTATIVE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING CONFIRMED MARINELLI'S FIGURES. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE BRGM PLANS TO PUBLISH AN EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SOURCES IN FRANCE AND TO MOUNT FOUR GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION EFFORTS IN 1975 IN THE MOST PROMISING AREAS. THESE ARE: TOULOUSE, PARIS CLERMONT-FERRAND, AND STRASBOURG.
IRWIN

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